



May  
1989

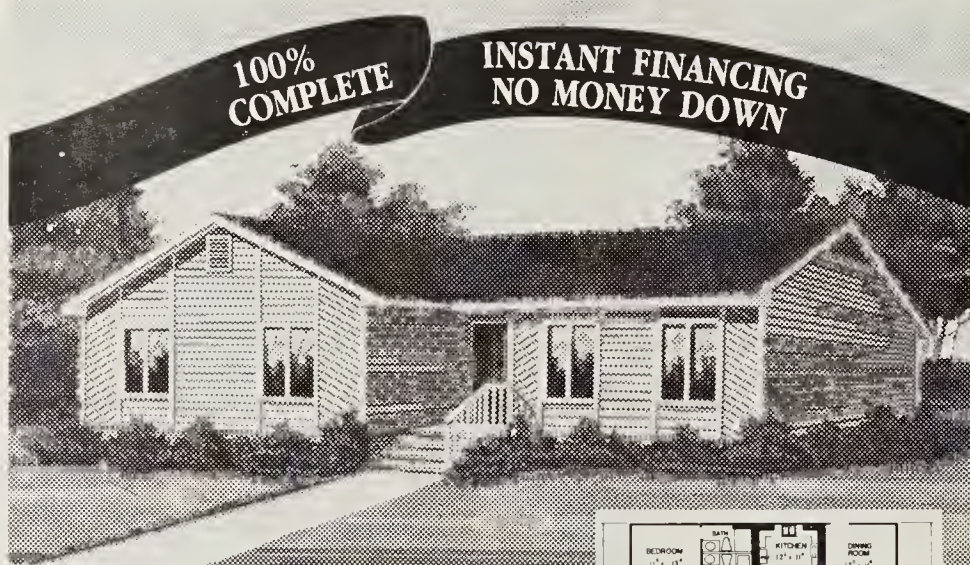
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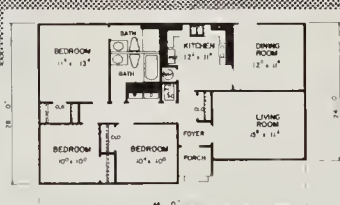


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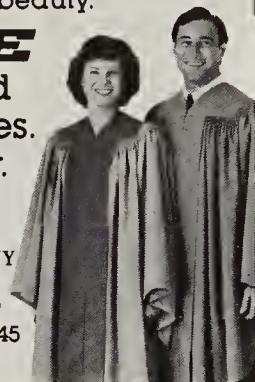
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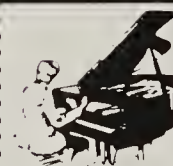
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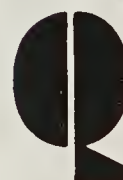


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## Co-ops Can Energize Rural Revitalization

The following editorial was written by  
Hall Torgerson, administrator of the Agri-  
cultural Cooperative Service of the U. S. Depart-  
ment of Agriculture.

Are rural areas being restructured?

That question is  
at the forefront of an  
economic geogra-  
pher's study relating to  
changing makeup  
of towns and the im-  
pact of the 1981-86  
depression on  
rural communities.  
The group of  
human geographers

conducting the study have found in selected  
communities that half or more of Main Street  
businesses closed their doors in this time period.  
In some, entire town business centers collapsed  
in the Midwest, Plains States and other regions.  
These developments have brought about a  
need for rural revitalization often dubbed "rural  
development." The suggestion is that state and  
federal programs need to be cast anew to lead  
the charge in revitalizing the sagging economies  
of rural areas.

This approach leads to different scenarios  
and reactions by inhabitants. One group sees a  
need for inflows of funds in the form of grants or  
guaranteed loans for encouraging new industry,  
presuming community services often lost  
during the recent crunch. The establishment  
of a more diversified economic base is seen as  
essential to re-populate faltering communities  
and lessen dependence on farm cycles. Others  
advocate changing the pastoral tranquility that  
characterizes many rural areas, i.e., they advo-  
cate leaving well enough alone.

It is well known that the huge federal  
budget will serve as a constraint on any pro-  
gram of a lavish nature. Focus, therefore, shifts:  
What institutions exist in rural areas that can  
serve as a springboard and nucleus for revitaliza-

tion efforts? Also, which groups can serve as a  
leadership resource for bringing about needed  
changes?

Can cooperatives fill this role?

Some have more self-interest than others.



Rural electric cooper-  
atives, for example,  
can see immediate  
benefits from in-  
creased power sales as  
new industry revives  
rural areas. Similarly,  
credit unions and  
cooperative banks at-  
tempting to diversify  
loan portfolios may

have interest in serving as a credit source to  
community services such as water and sewage  
disposal systems.

Local farm supply stores see advantages in  
broadening their membership base by expand-  
ing their product line to attract the lawn and  
garden trade.

More than 5,000 farmer cooperatives and  
900 rural electrics are mainstays in many rural  
communities throughout America. These orga-  
nizations were founded on the philosophy that  
self-determination and self-help by rural resi-  
dents through cooperatively-owned businesses  
is a key means to provide goods and services  
to rural areas.

That same philosophy can be extended to  
other services such as rural housing, health care,  
water districts, telephone, media, handicrafts  
and others. The question is whether leadership  
will be forthcoming from the core of established  
cooperatives to energize new initiatives.

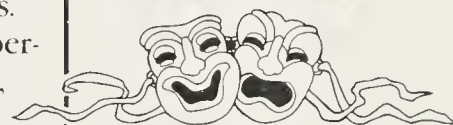
In all cases, a major benefit from coopera-  
tive activity is that earnings are kept in the rural  
communities from which they come and serve  
as a stimulus to further growth and develop-  
ment.

That's why cooperatives can have a major  
role in new rural development efforts.

5

EMCs Salute  
Barbara Deverick

6



Theatre Program  
Offering Free  
Tickets

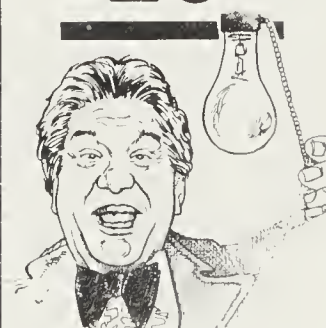
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Here/There/  
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Coverage of  
Statewide EMC  
Organization's  
Annual Meeting  
Through Page 17

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Clower Dedicates  
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## EDITOR'S LETTER

# 1989 Carolina Country®

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Dear Readers,

Our story in the March issue about North Carolina companies that sell bottled water mentioned that Milkco Dairy in Asheville is regularly trucking Tar Heel mountain spring water all the way to Florida.

Now we've learned that Florida consumers have another import connection for our state's mountain water—this one based in Miami.

Carolina Mountain Spring Water Co., Inc., which has two plants in Cashiers, markets the water in 11 states, including North Carolina.

J. M. Dwyer, president of the company, wrote to us when his firm wasn't mentioned in our piece, pointing out that the firm has enjoyed steady growth since it was incorporated in 1971.

The source of the water, he said, "is recognized in the industry as the best in the business."

The bottling operation, which is served by Haywood Electric Membership Corporation, Waynesville, is on a 50-acre tract in the midst of Nantahala National Forest. Its 11 employees are directed by Griffin and Colleen McCall, a husband-and-wife team who serve as resident managers.

Griffin is a Cashiers native while Colleen is originally from Miami. However, she was looking for an opportunity to settle in the North Carolina mountains when she joined Carolina Mountain Spring Water.

"I'd visited the area many times with my family over the years and loved it," she said.

She pointed out that her home state is a prime market for bottled water because "the water in much of Florida just isn't very good."

Dwyer said Florida is the state with the most bottled water sales in the South. Carolina Mountain Spring Water is second overall in Florida sales and also a leader in grocery store sales in the Miami area, he added.

A recent A. C. Nielson survey showed just how popular bottled water is in Miami. Sales of gallon containers in grocery stores for an eight-week period last fall totaled \$1.8 million. The survey didn't include sales of smaller sizes or sales through home distributors. The figure reflects sales of the best-selling brands. Another six are also available but their sales weren't strong enough to be considered in the survey.

Carolina Mountain Spring Water is one of four brands sold in the market that feature North Carolina water. The others are Arcadia, Triad, and Milkco's Land of Sky brand.

Best regards,

*Owen Bishop*

## Cover: Spring Scene At Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Our cover photo this month is a springtime scene at Sarah P. Duke Gardens in Durham. The photographer was James K. Clark of Bahama.



## *Honored Before Her Death*

# EMCs Salute Barbara Deverick

A Caldwell County woman who died April 3 has been saluted by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC) for her efforts over the past years to advance rural electrification and the cooperative movement around the world.

The association honored Barbara Deverick, cooperative affairs advisor for Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Lenoir, prior to her death. She died at Caldwell Memorial Hospital in Lenoir following an extended battle with leukemia.

NCAEC paid tribute to Mrs. Deverick with a contribution of \$800 to the National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) Cooperative Hall of Fame Fund. The gift presents \$100 for each of North Carolina's 28 EMCs.

Deverick was one of the 1989 inductees for the Hall of Fame, which recognizes individuals whose contributions to co-ops have advanced the principles of cooperation and

cooperative enterprise. She had been scheduled to attend a ceremony in Washington April 12 honoring her and two other Hall of Fame inductees, former Tennessee Congressman Ed Jones and Frank B. Sollars, former chairman of the board of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

"We felt this gift would be an appropriate way for us to honor Mrs. Deverick for her dedicated work on behalf of cooperatives across the state and nation, and around the world," said David R. McCue, interim executive vice president of the state association.

Contributions to the fund will be used to help promote the development of cooperative businesses in the U.S. and internationally, he said.

"Mrs. Deverick was devoted to this cause for the past four decades, providing leadership through various organizations and often visiting undeveloped countries to personally help people get new co-ops organized."



Following her death, Blue Ridge EMC Executive Vice President Wayne Keller said, "Of all the people I've ever seen, Barbara Deverick had the greatest dedication to the cooperative way of doing business. She devoted her whole life to strengthening co-ops locally, regionally and internationally. She firmly believed people could help each other and improve their lives through a cooperative effort."

Mrs. Deverick began her rural electric career at Blue Ridge in 1945 when she accepted a temporary assignment for three weeks. She rose through the ranks and served for many years as administrative manager.

With her help, the National Rural Electric Cooperative

Association (NRECA) developed a sister cooperative program through which Blue Ridge EMC became the first U.S. electric co-op to establish a sister relationship with an overseas co-op. That co-op is in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Taking assignments from the World Bank, Deverick worked in overseas cooperative development in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Philippines, Indonesia and Bangladesh, helping to bring electricity to the rural areas of those nations. She traveled to more than 50 countries, including the Soviet Union.

She was past chair of the NCBA and member of its Overseas Cooperative Development Committee. She also served on the board of the International Cooperative Alliance and on its Women's Committee.

In addition, she served on the boards of NRECA's International Foundation and the Cooperative's Development Foundation. And she was a director of the National Coal Council.

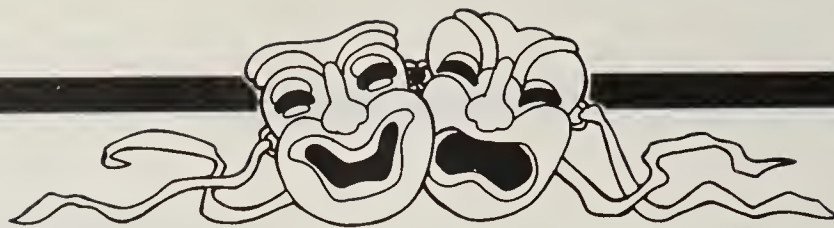
The North Carolina Cooperative Council, which she served as a director for the past nine years, honored her in 1987 with its first Cooperative Builder Award. The Northwest North Carolina Development Association saluted her recently with its Distinguished Service and Citizenship Award. She had been president and chair of that association's board.

Deverick was a past chair of the board of Keep North Carolina Beautiful, Inc. and a member of the N.C. 4-H Development Foundation and the N.C. Agricultural Foundation.

She was named North Carolina State Grange Woman of the Year in 1983 and the North Carolina Career Woman of the Year in 1981 for the N.C. Federation of Business and Professional Women. She received a Distinguished 4-H Alumni Award in 1970.

Deverick was also active in various civic and community organizations in Caldwell County and in Lenoir's First Advent Christian Church.





## For Older Tar Heels

# Theatre Program Offering Free Ticket

A record number of summer dramatic productions—16 in all—are offering free passes to North Carolina senior citizens under the Governor's Complimentary Theatre program, says Assistant Secretary of Human Resources Al Boyles, who heads the state's Division of Aging.

The minimum number required for the free ticket program is 20. The agency will *not* accept telephone requests; all must be in writing.

If a group makes a reservation and cannot attend, the theatre should be promptly notified. Those attending must arrange their own transportation. In case of inclement weather for an open air production, groups should reschedule by writing the N. C. Division of Aging. Make reservations as far in advance as possible; seven days is a minimum. Designate one person as contact for each group.

Here is a listing of productions, dates, contact person where applicable, and other information. However, all reservations for free tickets must be made in writing with E. Wayne White, Program Manager, N. C. Division of Aging, 1985 Umstead Drive, Raleigh, NC 27603. (See coupon below).

**Cherokee**—"Unto These Hills." 100 free tickets are available June through July 29; 30 free tickets available July 31 and Aug. 1, 5, 7, 8, 12, 15 and 19. 100 tickets also available Aug. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25. Performances are at 8:30 p.m. Contact persons: Denver Monteith and Sandy Reagan, (704) 497-2111.

**Boone**—"Horn In The West." 20 tickets. Play dates June 29, July 16, 23, 24, 30 and Aug. 6 at 8:30 p.m. Contact: Bill Winkler, P.O. Box 2 Boone, NC 28607 or (704) 264-2120.

**Halifax**—"First For Freedom." 200 tickets per performance. June 29 and 30; July 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 and 15 at 8:15 p.m., except July 4 be at 7:15 p.m. Also at Halifax, "Calamity Jane" will be presented, also 200 tickets available each performance, at 8:15 p.m. July 21, 22, 26, 27, 29; Aug. 2, 3, 4 and 5. Contact: James R. Twisdale, (919) 583-3011 or 583-1776.

**Greenville—East Carolina Summer Theatre.** 30 tickets per performance. "Pump Boys and Dinettes," July 5 and 8; "Summer and Smokey," July 12 and 15; "Foxfire," July 19 and 22 and "Mass Appeal," July 26 and 27 at 2:15 p.m. Contact: Gary Faircloth, McGinnis Theatre, (919) 757-6821.

**Burnsville—Parkway Playhouse.** 25 tickets per performance. "Barefoot in the Park," July 8; "Musical Comedy Murders of 1940," July 15 and 16; "I'm Not Rappaport," July 22 and "Gilbert & Sullivan Musical Revue," July 29. All shows at 2 p.m. Contact: Samuel J. Zachary, (919) 334-5361.

**Flat Rock—Flat Rock Playhouse.** 20 tickets per performance. Eight Sunday matinees at 2:15 p.m. "Social Security," June 11; "Broadway Bound," June 18; "Steel Magnolias," July 2; "Pirates of Penzance," July 9; "Mister Roberts," Aug. 6; "The 1940s Radio Hour," Aug. 20; "The Boys Next Door," Sept. 3 and "Write Me a Murder," Sept. 20. Contact: Rita McKinley (704) 693-0731.

**Pembroke**—"Strike At The Wind." 100 tickets per performance. June 6 and Aug. 24 at 8 p.m. Contact: Ken Connor, (919) 521-2489.

**Raleigh—Raleigh Ensemble Players** present "Warehouse Music" at Artspace; 20 tickets, Sunday, June 18, at 2:30 p.m.

**Carrboro**—"A/Musical" will be presented at the Arts Center at 8 p.m. May 25, 26 and 27. 20 tickets available. Contact: Dee Mattei (919) 942-2787.

**Sanford—Temple Theatre.** "The Wizard of Oz," Aug. 10, 11 and 12 at 8 p.m. "Oliver," July 13, 14 and 15 at 8 p.m. 20 tickets available.

**Kenansville**—"The Liberty Cart." 50 tickets per performance, June 15 and Aug. 26 at 8:15 p.m. Contact: Jim Johnson (919) 296-0721.

**Snow Camp**—"The Sword of Peace" will offer 40 tickets per performance, June 22 through July 21 at 8:30 p.m. Contact: Alton Duckworth (919) 376-6948.

**High Point—North Carolina Shakespeare Festival** will not participate in the 1989 free ticket program, but any group of 10 or more seniors may attend any of the performances for \$7.50 per ticket. Contact: Sicheloff at P.O. Box 6066, High Point, NC 27262-6066 or (919) 841-6066.

### FREE TICKET RESERVATION COUPON

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Name of Group

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## MAILBOX

### ***Painting Made Him Feel "Right At Home"***

I enjoyed "Rural Memories" by Pamela Renfroe (April cover). Having grown up in the valley of Virginia, where my family once owned a 1930 Model A, I felt "right at home." I would like to point out a minor item—the date on the license plate would be more appropriate if it were in the early 1930s.

*Paul Welles  
Raleigh*

### ***Country Store On April Cover Similar To One In Mississippi Back In The 1930s***

In reference to the Pamela C. Renfroe cover painting on the April, 1989, edition of your magazine, I wonder how many of your readers may recall a country store somewhere similar to the one on the magazine?

I recall one in my memory that was *very* similar to your picture. It was located at Lorman, MS, and I visited it many times back in the 1930s.

If you have others write about their country stores, please enter a comment in some future edition of *Carolina Country*.

*Henry M. Alford  
Clinton*

### ***Item On Richard Tumbleston Print Generated "A Tremendous Response"***

On behalf of the Ashe County Performing Arts/Civic Center Building Committee, I thank you for the item on Richard Tumbleston's print, "The Old Homestead."

The exposure has generated a tremendous response and boosted our fund-raising efforts.

We begin construction of the Ashe County Arts Center soon. We shall continue to keep you aware of our progress.

Again, many thanks! The publicity you so graciously provided has been invaluable.

*Elizabeth A. Dixon  
Executive Director  
Ashe County Challenge  
West Jefferson*

### ***"Hats Off" To Lawrence Family For Its Achievements With The Percheron Hitch***

Thank you for the splendid article on "The Percheron Hitch" and the Lawrence family (March).

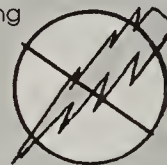
It's refreshing to see a family working together and accomplishing what the Lawrence family and friends have—by hard work and dedication. The project they have undertaken and successfully promoted is a goal not many people achieve.

Roxboro and Person County should be very proud to have such a fine ambassador for their area. Hats off to the Lawrences, their friends, Southern States and the lovely horses.

*Sonja T. Yagel  
Rt. 3, Rougemont*

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## HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE



### *Singing Convention Set For June 24-25 In Benson*

Gospel music in all forms will be featured as Benson hosts the 69th Annual State Singing Convention June 24-25.

The entertainment will take place at Singing Grove, Main Street in Benson. In the past, the convention has attracted thousands of gospel music lovers.

For more information, contact the Benson Chamber of Commerce at (919) 894-3825.

### *Nominations Open For 1989 Reynolds Leadership Awards*

Nominations will be accepted until June 15 for the 1989 Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards—designed to salute individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership without recognition.

Awards will be presented in three categories: advocacy, personal service and community change. Each winner will receive a \$25,000 grant, with \$20,000 of that to be given to a charitable organization chosen by the winner.

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation established the awards in 1986 to honor the late Nancy Susan Reynolds,

one of the founders of the organization.

A nomination form may be obtained by writing to the Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, 101 Reynolds Village, Winston-Salem, NC 27106. Phone: (919) 725-7541.

### *Rail Excursion Set To Travel Through Smokies*

The "Great Smoky Mountains Railway Railfan Extravaganza" is slated for June 10, sponsored by the N.C. Transportation History Corporation (NCTHC).

The excursion will feature a 64-mile trek from Dillsboro to Murphy—passing such sites as the haunted

Cowee Tunnel, Fontana Lake Bridge and Red Marble Gap.

The trip will depart from Dillsboro at 8 a.m. and arrive in Murphy at 6:30 p.m. A bus will return travelers to Dillsboro, arriving at 8:30 p.m.

The train will feature open and closed coaches and have a commissary car with snacks, hot dogs and drinks.

Adult tickets for the excursion are \$60. Tickets are available from Spencer Shops Historic Site, P.O. Box 44, 411 S. Salisbury Ave., Spencer, NC 28159.

Tickets can be ordered by mail prior to June 3. Make checks payable to NCTHC, and enclose a large self-addressed stamped envelope.

For more information, call Spencer Shops at (704) 636-2889.

### *Hog Day Slated In Hillsborough*

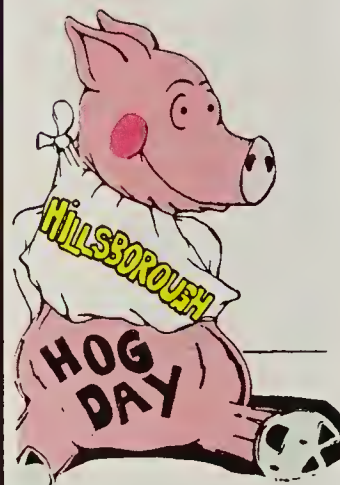
A \$1,000 Barbecue Cooking Contest will be one of the highlights at the Hillsborough Hog Day June 17.

The annual event, which will take place behind the Hillsborough County Courthouse and Sher-

iff's Department, will feature contests, crafts and entertainment.

An estimated 20,000 people are expected to attend the all-day event.

For more information, contact the Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce, 228 S. Churton St., Hillsborough, NC 27278. Phone: (919) 732-8156.



### *Boone To Host Craft Fair*

At least 50 exhibitors are expected to display their work at the 2nd Annual Blue Ridge Hearthsideside Craft Fair June 9-11 in Boone.

The fair, to be held at the Pavilion next to the Blue Ridge Hearthsideside Crafts retail store on Highway 105 South, will run from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Demonstrations in chairmaking, spinning, blacksmithing and wood carving will also

be featured.

Adult admission

the show is \$1.50

For more information, contact Blue Ridge Hearthsideside Crafts, Rt. 1, Box Banner Elk, NC 28604. Phone: (704) 963-5252

### *Top Turkey Recipe Sought For Contest*

Entries are not being accepted for the North Carolina Turkey Cooking Contest, with a top prize of \$500 being offered.

The contest, sponsored by the N.C. Turkey Federation, is open to all state residents. All entries include turkey products—not the whole bird. And entry must make servings. Entries be postmarked no later than June 1



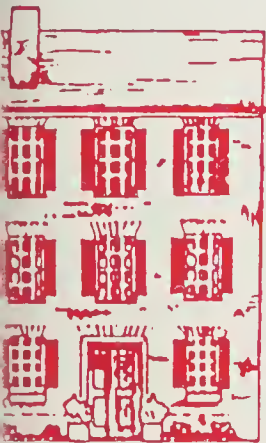
To enter, send name, address, phone number and your favorite turkey recipe to the Turkey Federation.





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n, contact the Beau-  
t Historical Associa-  
n at P.O. Box 1709,  
aufort, NC 28516.  
one: (919)  
3-5225.

**craft Fair  
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Crafts for show and  
will be available  
he Currituck Craft  
Aug. 12-13 at the  
rituck County  
h School in Barco.

The fair will run  
from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
the first day and noon  
to 5 p.m. the second.  
Adult tickets are \$1.

Booth space for  
exhibitors is still  
available. To reserve a  
space, contact Bertha  
Perry at (919) 232-  
2050 or Marie Sawyer  
at (919) 435-6888.

### **10 Directors Get New Terms At Three EMCs**

A total of 10 incum-  
bents have been re-  
elected to the Boards  
of Directors of three  
North Carolina Elec-  
tric Membership  
Corporations (EMCs)  
during recent co-op  
annual meetings:

- **Edgecombe-  
Martin County EMC,**  
Tarboro—Re-elected  
were John R. Grimes  
of Rt. 2, Battleboro;  
Billy Trevathan of Rt. 1,  
Tarboro and Marshal  
D. Wilson of Rt. 1,  
Robersonville.

Board officers for  
the coming year are:  
Alice E. Wilson of  
Tarboro, president;  
W. Kitchin Benson of  
Battleboro, vice presi-  
dent; Noel Lee Jr. of  
Rt. 3, Washington,  
Secretary and John R.  
Grimes, Treasurer.

- **Jones-Onslow  
EMC, Jacksonville—**  
Re-elected were Clif-  
ton D. Taylor of Rt. 5,  
Kinston; Marvin H.

Manning of Rt. 3,  
Richlands and Douglas  
C. Parker of Hubert.

Board officers for  
the upcoming year  
are: Archie Horne of  
Rt. 2, Beulaville, presi-  
dent; Clifton D. Taylor,  
vice president and  
Marvin H. Manning,  
secretary-treasurer.

- **South River  
EMC, Dunn—Re-elect-**  
ed were Kesler C.  
Butler of Rt. 7, Fayette-  
ville; Peter J. Baker of  
Hope Mills; Carlton  
Martin of Rt. 1, God-  
win and Eloise M.

Talley of Rt. 1, Fay-  
etteville.

Board officers for  
the coming year are:  
Kesler C. Butler, presi-  
dent; Charles Collier  
of Rt. 1, Linden, vice  
president; Ralph John-  
son of Rt. 1, Roseboro,  
secretary and Harvey  
Flowers of Rt. 2, Four  
Oaks, treasurer.

### **Hickory Museum To Display Works By Starkweather**

Almost 30 works  
from American artist

William Starkweather  
will be on display  
through June 25 at the  
Hickory Museum of  
Art.

The exhibit will fea-  
ture 14 oils and 15  
watercolors—many of  
which are on loan  
from museums across  
the country.

For more informa-  
tion, contact the Arts  
Center of Catawba  
Valley, P.O. Box 2572,  
Hickory, NC 28603.

(Continued on page 12)

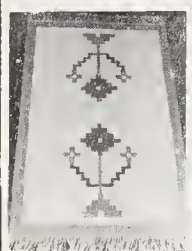


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Take 220 South to Biscoe, N.C.  
Turn right on Hwy. 27

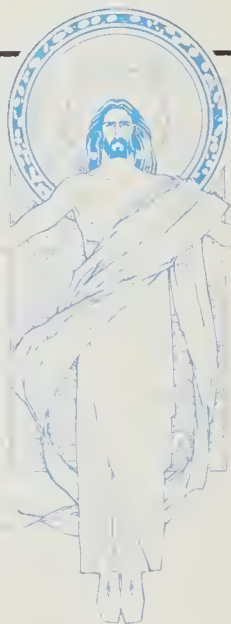
We are 7-1/4 miles on  
the right.







## HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE



### **"Worthy Is The Lamb" Opens June 16**

"Worthy Is The Lamb," North Carolina's newest musical outdoor drama will open its second season at the Crystal Coast Amphitheatre in Swansboro June 16.

The drama, which depicts the story of Jesus Christ, played to about 42,000 people during its 1988 season. A cast of about 100 actors, both professional and amateur, are featured in the production.

"We've been working for months to get everything ready for the opening in June," said Shirley Page of Swansboro, who is secretary-treasurer of the production company and also portrays Mary, Mother of Jesus.

"With this being our second year of production, we're expecting an even better season than last year."

The play is performed amid realistic sets of the Temple of Jerusalem, the Hall of Pontius Pilate, King Herod's Palace, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Upper Room, the Cross on Calvary and Christ's tomb.

Performances are scheduled Tuesday through Saturday, June 16 through Sept. 1 at 8:30 p.m.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens, \$6 for children ages 7 to 12 and free for children 6 and under. A 10 percent discount is offered to the military and groups of 25 or more.

Advance reservations are recommended. For more information, call toll-free: 800-662-5960 or call (919) 393-8373.

### **State Checkers Tournament Slated In Greensboro**

The North Carolina Checkers Tournament, the state's checkers championship, will be held July 4-6 in Greensboro.

The tournament will be divided into two classes—majors and minors. The entry fee is \$10.

For more information, contact W. H. Amos, 1508 Lexington Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403. Phone: (919) 272-0857.

### **Fund-Raising Project To Support Juvenile Diabetes Foundation**

The Chatham-Wake Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International is currently selling chances for a new boat that will be given away June 24.

The event will raise money for diabetes research, local educational counseling services for diabetics, their families, hospitals, schools and community

organizations.

Currently, 80 percent of all money raised by the local chapter goes directly to these programs, according to chapter officials.

Chances in the boat give-away are \$2 each.

For more information, contact Donna R. Shoemaker, Chatham-Wake Chapter, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International, P.O. Box 171, Moncure, NC 27559. Phone: (919) 542-6216.

### **Proclamations Mark Occasions**

The month of May has been proclaimed as Older Americans Month across North Carolina and the week of May 14-20 has been designated as Older Veterans Week.

Gov. James G. Martin issued two proclamations marking the occasions.

Other special observances during

the month, recognized in the Older Americans proclamations, include Older Adult Fitness Week, May 7-13, and May 20 as Senior Smile Week, Nursing Home Week and Senior Citizen Week.

In commenting on the Older Veterans Week the governor noted that North Carolina claims about 256,000 war veterans aged 65 and up.

### **Two Co-op Leaders Get Posthumous Honors From Statewide Organization**

North Carolina's rural electric cooperatives have posthumously recognized a Randolph County man and a Rockingham County man for their contributions to rural electrification.

Alton P. Wall, a former manager at Randolph EMC, Asheboro, and Hassell B. Gann, director at Davidson EMC, Lexington, were honored at the 1989 Annual Meeting of the statewide organization of Electric Members' Corporations (EMC) in Raleigh.

*(See pages 14-17 for more news from the meeting)*

Wall, who died in January, served as general manager of Randolph EMC for 29 years. He stepped down in 1978 after a stint as manager of the statewide organization of EMCs.

Gann, who died last September, represented Davidson EMC in affairs of the statewide organization for several years.

Officials of Randolph EMC and Davidson EMC accepted "certificates of appreciation" in the honorees' names. The certificates incorporated resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors of the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives to honor Wall and Gann.

Both men were saluted for their "dedicated service" to the co-op program.



## Renate Dahlin Heads EMC Women's Group

A Hoke County woman has been installed chairwoman of the Women's Advisory Committee of North Carolina's statewide organization of Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs).

Renate Dahlin of Rt. 2, Raeford, who is a member of the Women's Committee of Lumbee River EMC, Red Springs, was installed in the post during the 1989 Annual Meeting of the EMC organization in Raleigh.

Janice Gore of Rt. 3, White-  
a member of the Women's Committee of Brunswick EMC, Shallotte, was installed as the new vice chairwoman.

Meanwhile, Millie Lilley of Rt. 5, Greenville, a member of the Women's Committee of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Tarboro, was installed as North Carolina's representative on the board of the National Rural Electric Women's Association.

The statewide committee oversees various projects, including a college scholarship program to recognize outstanding participants in the annual Tar Heel Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington. The group also sponsors an annual conference for members of local EMC women's committees and member organizations.

Mrs. Gore and Mrs. Lilley each represent local EMCs on the statewide committee. Other members of the committee and the organizations they represent are: Lillian Corbett of French Broad EMC, Marshall; Ginger Hill of Enfield, Halifax EMC, Enfield; Janice of Rt. 1, Canton, Haywood EMC, Waynesville; Rose Prevatte of Rt. 2, Pembroke, Lumbee EMC, Red Springs; Katie Bunch of Rt. 2, Hill, Pee Dee EMC, Wadesboro; Lucille of Rt. 1, Fountain, Pitt and Greene EMC, Greenville and Corene Harris of Rt. 1, Pendleton, Hoke EMC, Rich Square.



## Annual Meetings Calendar

Date	Electric Membership Corporation	Time	Location
<b>May</b>			
<b>20</b>	Randolph, Asheboro	Registration: 12:00 Noon Business Meeting: 1:30 p.m.	Southwestern Randolph High School, Football Stadium, 6 miles SW of Asheboro
<b>June</b>			
<b>10</b>	Blue Ridge, Lenoir	Registration: 8:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 9:30 a.m.	Ashe Central High School, Jefferson

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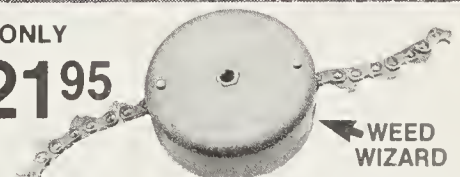
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Nearly 400 representatives of North Carolina's Electric Membership Corporations gathered in Raleigh, March 16-17, for the 1989 Annual Meeting of the state-wide organization of EMCs.

"Yes, We Can!" was the theme for the meeting, which featured awards presentations, elections of officers and directors for the coming year, business sessions and a long list of speakers.

Coverage of meeting highlights appears on these pages and on pages 12, 13, 16 and 17.

## 25 Directors From 17 EMCs Honored

A total of 25 directors of North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations have been saluted for their years of service to the state's rural electric program.

They were presented with "meritorious service" plaques citing them for their contributions to the program.

The directors honored, listed by EMCs, were:

**Albemarle, Hertford**—Joseph A. Byrum of Rt. 1, Tyner, for 20 years of service.

**Blue Ridge, Lenoir**—Charles A. Suddreth of Rt. 5, Lenoir, 30 years.

**Cape Hatteras, Buxton**—William Z. Burrus of Hatteras, 20 years.

**Carteret-Craven, Morehead City**—W. J. Wynne Jr. of Havelock, 35 years.

**Central, Sanford**—Johnnie J. Chalmers of Rt. 2, Cameron, 15 years.

**Crescent, Statesville**—T. L. Brotherton of Cornelius, 25 years.

**Edgecombe-Martin County, Tarboro**—Noel Lee Jr. of Rt. 3, Washington, 35 years.

**Four County, Burgaw**—R. E. Pendergrass of Rt. 1, Harrells, 25 years.

**French Broad, Marshall**—Albert Freeman of Marshall, 15 years.

**Halifax, Enfield**—Richard H. Green Warrenton and Plummer Hardy Jr. of Rt. 3, Enfield, both for 15 years.

**Haywood, Waynesville**—David Edwards of Rt. 3, Waynesville, 15 years.

**Piedmont, Hillsborough**—Elvin L. of Rt. 2, Rougement and H. J. Kinley Jr. of Mebane, both for 15 years.

**Rutherford, Forest City**—Four directors were cited for 25 years of service: H. Frank Queen of Rt. 1, Morganton; Fred T. Boyd of Marion; Joseph N. Quinn of Rt. 3, Marion; and Robert S. Sisk of Rt. 5, Morganton. In addition, a fourth director was recognized for 15 years of service: Robert O. Bynum of Rt. 2, Iron Station.

**South River, Dunn**—Harvey Flowers of Rt. 2, Four Oaks, 30 years.

**Tideland, Pantego**—Kenneth Gray of Rt. 1, Scranton, 20 years.

**Tri-County, Dudley**—C. C. Ivey Jr. of Rt. 2, Mt. Olive, 20 years.

**Union, Monroe**—Bruce Thompson of Charlotte, 35 years; Thurman Harwood of New London and B. L. Starnes of Waxhaw, both for 15 years.

## Garner Cited For Service To Nation's Co-ops

A director of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Asheboro, has been cited by North Carolina's statewide organization of EMCs for his contributions to the national rural electric program.

James H. Garner of Rt. 2, Robbins, was honored for his work on the Board of Directors of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), a lending agency that provides loans to electric and telephone co-ops as a supplement to Rural Electrification Administration financing.

He recently stepped down from that board

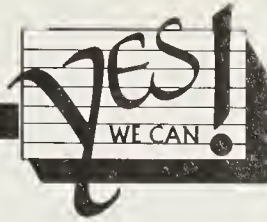
post after six years of service—the maximum tenure allowed under CFC's by-laws. For the past two years, he also served as president of the board.

Garner, senior vice president and area executive with First Bank, Troy, represented the eight-state district on the 22-member board.

He was presented with a plaque saluting his "devoted service" on the national board and his "outstanding leadership" as its president.

Garner has been a member of the board of Randolph EMC since 1965. He currently serves as secretary-treasurer of that board.





## EMC Safety Programs Get Re-accreditations

Nine North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) have been cited for maintaining effective comprehensive employee safety programs.

The EMCs have been awarded re-accreditation certificates for the safety programs from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The national organization reviews co-op safety efforts for accreditation purposes every three years.

Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir, received its eighth accreditation while Haywood EMC, Waynesville and South River EMC, Dunn, both received their fourth certificates.

Roanoke EMC, Rich Square and Tideland EMC, Pantego both received their fifth accreditations. Halifax EMC, Enfield and Lumbee River EMC, Red Springs, both received their fourth accreditations.

Crescent EMC, Statesville and Rutherford EMC, Forest City, both received their third accreditations.

## EMC Managers Get Recognition

Two North Carolina electric co-op managers have been honored for their career service to the state's rural electric program.

They are Lloyd H. Lee, manager of Tideland Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Pantego and Eugene Clayborne, manager of Carteret-Craven EMC, Morehead City.

Clayborne has been with Carteret-Craven for the past 15 years and was named manager in 1983. He was cited for 15 years of service. Lee became manager of Tideland EMC a year after serving in staff positions at both Carteret-Craven EMC and Four County EMC, Lenoir. He was cited for 20 years of service.

## Retired Co-op Managers Lauded

Three retired electric co-op managers from across North Carolina have been honored for their achievements in the rural electric program.

Cited for their service were: Glenn A. Carowan, retired manager of Tideland Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Pantego; Robert S. Holmes, retired manager of Tri-County EMC, Dudley and Alvin C. Morton, retired manager of Jones-Onslow EMC, Jacksonville.

All three received "meritorious service" plaques.

Each award incorporated a resolution from the Board of Directors of the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives outlining the milestones of the recipient's career.

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Box 83, Asheboro, NC 27203.

## The Aviary at the N.C. Zoo - Asheboro





*For 1989-90*

# Co-op Organization Elects Officers

A director and two managers, representing Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs), based in Waynesville, Red Springs and Wake Forest, have been elected to the top leadership posts in the three corporations comprising North Carolina's statewide organization of EMCs.

Representatives of six other cooperatives across the state were also elected to offices with the organization during its 1989 Annual Meeting in Raleigh.

Emmit P. Wood of Scally Mountain, a director of Haywood EMC, Waynesville, was elected president of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC), the statewide trade association for the state's 28 electric co-ops. Wood, a past president of the Haywood EMC Board of Directors, had served two terms as vice president of the association.

Other officers elected to join Wood in leading NCAEC were H. Wayne Wilkins, manager of Davidson EMC, Lexington, vice president and Richard H. Johnson, of Rt. 4, Wadesboro, a director of Pee Dee EMC, Wadesboro, secretary-treasurer.

Ronnie E. Hunt, manager of Lumbree River EMC, Red Springs, was re-elected president of North Carolina EMC, the generation and transmission operation of the statewide organization.

Also re-elected as officers of NCEMC were Eugene W. Brown Jr., manager of Roanoke EMC, Rich Square, vice president and J. Kelly Hutchens, manager of Surry-Yadkin EMC, Dobson, secretary-treasurer.

James E. Mangum Jr., manager of Wake EMC, Wake Forest, was elected to a second term as president of Tarheel Electric Membership Association (TEMA), the central purchasing and materials supply operation serving the co-ops.

Also re-elected as officers of TEMA were Eugene Clayborne, manager of Carteret-Craven EMC, Morehead City, vice president and Gary A. Whitener, manager of Rutherford EMC, Forest City, secretary-treasurer.

Whitener was also elected to a new three-year term on the TEMA board.

In addition, Leroy Autry of Rt. 2, Autryville,

a director of South River EMC, Dunn and A. G. Willcox Jr. of Rt. 3, Enfield, were elected to the TEMA board.

Meanwhile, Carteret-Craven EMC's Eugene Clayborne was elected president of the North Carolina rural electric program's political action organization, the Rural Electric Action Program (REAP). Jimmy R. Horton of Rt. 2, Cleveland, a director of Crescent EMC, Statesville, was elected vice chairman and James Lee Burney, manager of public affairs for the statewide EMC organization, was elected secretary-treasurer.

## 1989-90 Officers

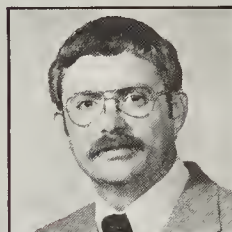
NCAEC • NCEMC  
TEMA • REAP



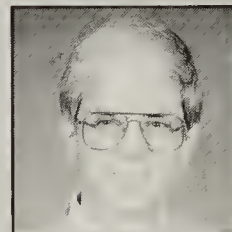
**Emmit P. Wood**  
NCAEC President



**Ronnie E. Hunt**  
NCEMC President



**James E. Mangum Jr.**  
TEMA President



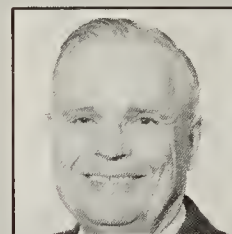
**H. Wayne Wilkins**  
NCAEC Vice President



**Richard H. Johnson**  
NCAEC Secretary-Treasurer



**Eugene W. Brown Jr.**  
NCEMC Vice President



**J. Kelly Hutchens**  
NCEMC Secretary-Treasurer



**H. Eugene Clayborne**  
TEMA Vice President  
REAP Chairman



**Gary A. Whitener**  
TEMA Secretary-Treasurer



**Jimmy R. Horton**  
REAP Vice Chairman



**James Lee Burney**  
REAP Secretary-Treasurer





## McDuffie Gets New Term On NRECA Board

Bob L. McDuffie, manager of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation, Asheboro, has been re-elected as North Carolina's representative on the board of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The national organization, which is based in Washington, DC, represents about 1,000 electric co-ops across the country.

McDuffie, who has been with Randolph EMC for 27 years, has served on the NRECA board since 1986. He currently serves on the boards of two of the three corporations comprising the statewide EMC organization.

He has been manager at Randolph EMC since 1977.

## Co-op Civil Rights Efforts Recognized

Two North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) have been cited by the Electrification Administration (REA) for implementing a voluntary civil rights program approved by the federal agency.

They are Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir, and Wood EMC, Waynesville.

Joseph R. Binder, director of REA's North Carolina area for service to electric co-ops, presented the awards.

The EMCs were recognized for having implemented a five-point program covering cooperative education, weatherization, community involvement, member participation and minority and female leadership within the co-op.

Only about 120 of the nation's 1,000 electric cooperatives have been cited for adopting such a program, according to REA officials.

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## Claw Marks On Furniture: A Cover-Up



I thought your readers would be interested in this "helpful hint" for covering scratches on furniture. I have 11 indoor cats and they love to claw the furniture.

Here's how to cover up the claw marks: Place a teaspoon of instant coffee in a cup and add a half teaspoon of hot water. Mix to a paste and dip your fingers into the paste and rub it onto the scratches. Let dry. Then rub

off excess paste. The scratches ought to be less noticeable.

If the wood is light in color, use more water in the paste. If the wood is dark in color, use less water in the paste.

*Frankie Ann Norton  
Rt. 4, Morganton*



## The Untold Pleasures The "Double Tablecloth"

With today's fast-paced style of living and the boom in take-out food, there are probably millions of people in North Carolina who have never sampled the delicious tastes that could be found under the "double tablecloth."

Some probably don't even use the second tablecloths anymore.

But back in the days when home cooking was part of farm life, the farm wife had a neat trick to keep foods fresh. After breakfast or the dinner served at noon, she would leave a large amount of tasty edibles right on the table and cover them with a second white cotton tablecloth.

Hungry youngsters coming in from school or from summer farm chores could always get a healthy snack by lifting the top tablecloth. What would they find?

Quite possibly some cold fried chicken from dinner or the country ham that was served at breakfast. Naturally, there would be a big plate of biscuits. Possibly some preserves and jellies. Maybe a jar of molasses. Corn bread. And maybe some kind of vegetable.

All you had to do to round out your snack was to get the butter and some milk or buttermilk from the "ice box" or refrigerator. With this, you could do very well. And more often than not there would be something else: the remaining half of that delicious layer cake that had baked and iced for the night before.

Untold pleasures often reposed beneath that second tablecloth.

*Frankie*

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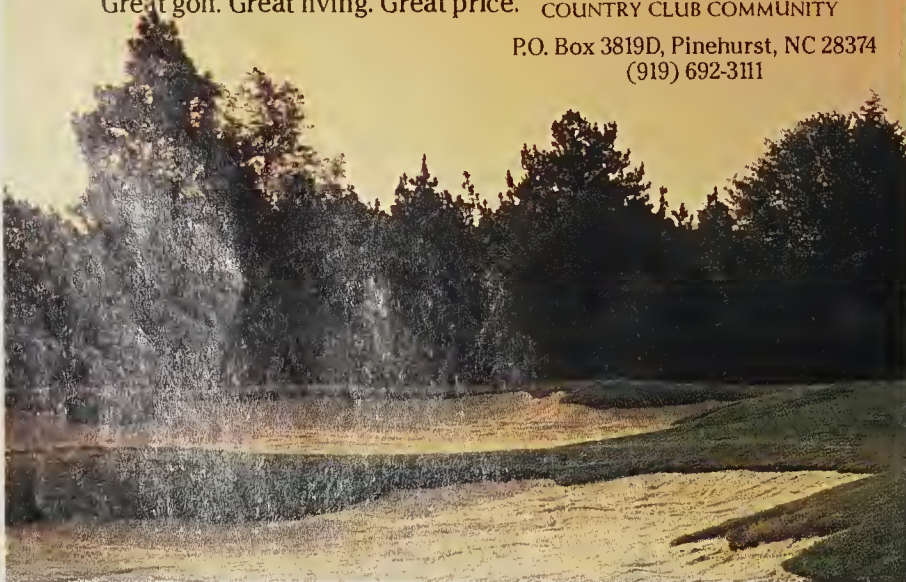
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## COUNTRY KITCHEN

### Would You Like To Share Your Recipes?

If you would like to share a recipe with this column, send it to: *Carolina Country*, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611. We pay \$5 for published recipes and send each monthly winner a set of 50 recipe cards featuring a reprint of the published recipe.



### Strawberry Filled Angel Cake

*Submitted by  
Joyce Corbett, Ivanhoe*

1 Angel Food Cake Mix  
1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen  
strawberries

1 pkg. (small) strawberry  
gelatin  
1 pt. whipping cream

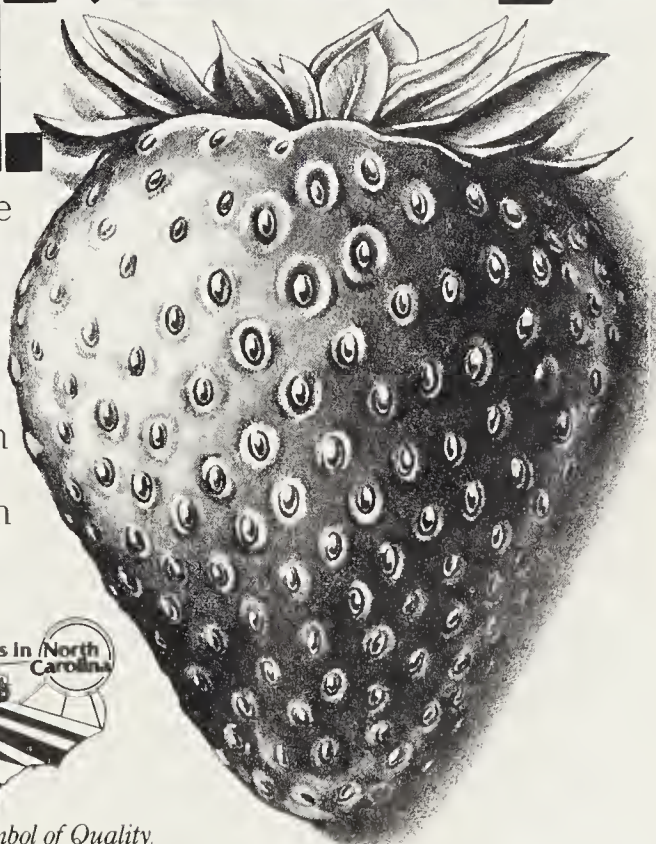
Bake cake according to package directions; cool. Heat strawberries in sauce pan over low heat. Add strawberry gelatin. Stir until dissolved. Chill until partially set. Whip cream until stiff peaks form. Beat gelatin mixture into whipping cream gradually. Cut 1-inch layer crosswise from top of cake. Remove center of cake leaving 1-inch wall around cake. Fill cake with whipping cream mixture, reserving one cup for frosting. Return 1-inch layer to top of cake. Frost cake with reserved whipped cream mixture. Chill for 2 hours before serving. Garnish with strawberries. (Yield: 12 servings). *Heavenly!*

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We are offering you one of the most valuable 92-page cook books of this day and time. This exciting cook book has easy practical recipes, new ways to use your homegrown fruits, berries and nuts along with helpful household and cooking hints, old time remedies and recipes from the past, all blended with a touch of humor. This book is only \$2.00 each post paid. If you are not completely satisfied return the book within 30 days and we will refund your money. Mail your order today with personal check or money order, and allow 2 weeks for delivery. Send to: James Savage Cook Book Co., P. O. Box 125, McMinnville, TN 37110.

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## State Near The Bottom On Per Capita Federal Expenditures

North Carolina ranked near the bottom in federal expenditures per capita in fiscal year 1988, according to U. S. Census Bureau reports.

The reports show that only three other states had lower per capita figures for the period.

The figure for North Carolina was \$2,719. Lower figures were recorded only for Wisconsin, \$2,702; Indiana, \$2,656 and Michigan, \$2,543.

Nationally, the federal government spent an average of \$3,545 for each American in fiscal year 1988.

The bureau released three reports showing how the federal government spent \$884 billion from Oct. 1, 1987 to Sept. 30, 1988.

One report shows the federal government spent \$409 billion in 1988 for individual benefits such as Social Security, Medicare and food stamps, \$189 billion in procurement contracts from the Defense Department and other agencies, \$134 billion for federal employees' salaries, \$115 billion in grants to state and local governments and \$37 billion for research grants, agriculture subsidies and other purposes.

The per capita federal expenditure nationwide was an increase of 3.3 percent over the prior year.

The states benefiting most in per capita figures in 1988 were Virginia, \$5,954; New Mexico, \$5,752; Alaska, \$5,193; Maryland, \$5,113; Hawaii, \$4,535; North Dakota, \$4,345; Massachusetts, \$4,272; Connecticut, \$4,249 and Missouri, \$4,195.

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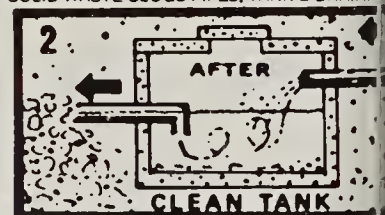
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# November 28th Brought New Meaning To The Word Co-op.



The nightmare roared through the early morning sky, and in a few minutes time, more than 8,000 people were without electricity. Many were without homes.

Within hours, aid for the victims came pouring in. Food. Clothes. Money. Neighbors helped neighbors. Strangers opened their doors to the homeless. People came from miles around with trucks and chain saws to lend a helping hand.

And in the same spirit of cooperation, neighboring EMCs mobilized to help the affected EMCs rebuild and restore service.

When it was all over, we all understood the meaning of co-op a little better.

*We're All In This Together.*







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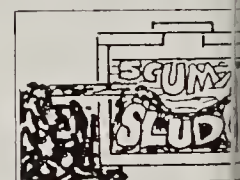
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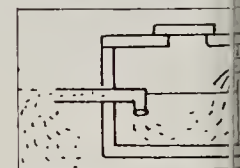
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How many septic tanks? \_\_\_\_\_

Septic Tank Be



Septic Tank A



Drain lines  
Before

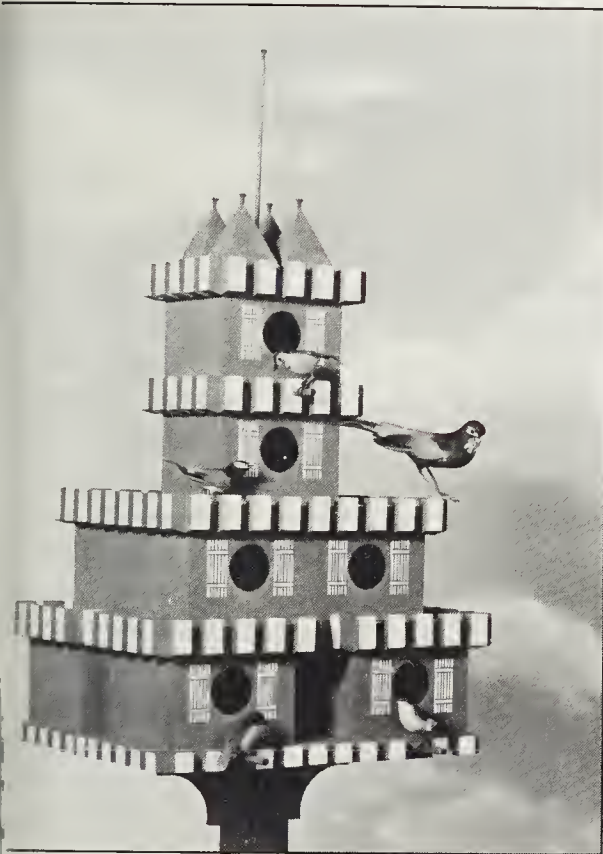
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### A Birds-Eye View

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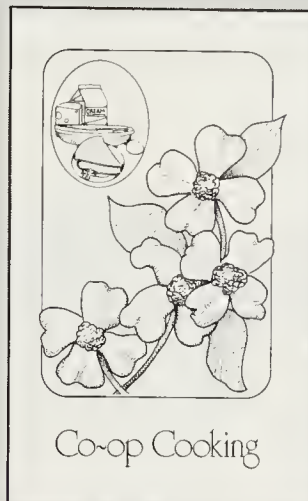
As our country grows, more and more sources of food and shelter for our birds are being destroyed. But we can help them by providing nesting shelters and houses which will encourage them to live near us.

Each one in our collection is easy to build and will add a colorful touch to your yard. All you do is trace the patterns onto wood, saw it out and assemble. Step-by-step instructions and photos take away all the guesswork—for the amateur woodworker!

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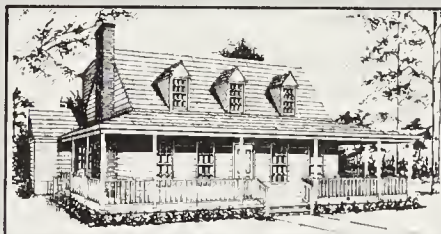
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## HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

We're in one of the busiest gardening periods of the year; also one of the most pleasure-filled. Activity is in high-gear. It's time to divide and replant bulbs as foliage matures; select and plant annual and perennial flowers for summer color; tend roses and the vegetable garden; hurry to finish planting container-grown trees and shrubs; and begin the annual alert for sighting and controlling insects and diseases.



### Separate Bulbs

If the blooms of spring-flowering bulbs are fewer and smaller than in previous years, the bulbs need to be dug and divided.

When dividing, don't forcibly break away any small bulbs that are tightly joined with the larger parent bulb. Separate only when the small bulbs come away easily.

## SPRING HINTS

- Feed azaleas, hydrangeas, gardenias and dogwoods specially prepared fertilizers for acid-loving plants.
- Remove sucker growth below the graft union or graft bud on roses and other grafted shrubs and trees.
- For pink hydrangea blooms, treat the soil with lime; if blue flowers are desired, use aluminum sulfate.
- Don't till or cultivate soil if it is wet and soggy. Wait until it is dry enough to work with ease. Tilling wet soil can cause difficult-to-manage clumps later on.
- These flower seed should be sown directly in the garden, as plants will suffer setback in transplanting: coreopsis, alyssum, godetia, kochia, linaria, dwarf phlox, poppy, portulaca and nasturtium.
- Repot any root-bound houseplants.
- Paint porch and patio furniture.
- Get vegetables into the ground. If space is a problem, try growing a few vegetables discreetly placed in the flower bed or in containers placed where they will receive at least six hours of sunlight.

### Deep-feed Trees

Deep-feeding gives the best results with trees. Surface-feeding often is consumed chiefly by grasses or ground covers growing around the tree trunks. And, surface-feeding tends to bring tree roots to the surface where they may be damaged by the summer heat later on.

Fertilize trees by making a series of one- to two-inch diameter holes eight

to ten inches deep. Begin holes about three or four feet from the trunk, and extend them just beyond the spread of the branches. Use one to two pounds complete fertilizer (such as 8-8-8) per year of age of tree.

### Clean Pruning Equipment

Always clean and oil pruning shears, saws and loppers after

using. Use a medium grade of steel wool to remove rust, gum and plant tissue which adheres to the cutting edges.

Then wipe a light oil coating over all metal parts before returning tools to storage.

### Spring-Flowering Shrubs Will Need Some Pruning

Don't forget to prune flowering shrubs once they have completed blooming. Among these are the spireas, forsythia, flowering quince and aza-

leas. If they have grown to the desired size, only a light pruning or one heading back is necessary.

### Trim Your Overgrown Azaleas

If you have any overgrown azaleas the large-growing types (such as the Indicas), some removal of leggy growth may be desirable.

Cut back such growth well into the shrub. On small plants induce branching by pinching out tips of new growth. Complete all azalea pruning by late May.



## Vegetable Starters

Vegetable seeds of such edibles as okra, cucumber, squash, snapbeans and sweet corn may be planted in the garden now. Also, it's time to set out transplants of sweet peppers, tomatoes and eggplant.

You might want to try the planned-planting of pole beans and corn, whereby the corn plants serve as a trellis or stake for the climbing beans. When corn plants are about four to five inches tall, plant the beans in nearby rows. Since beans grow much faster than corn, the bean plants will not "ride" the corn down.



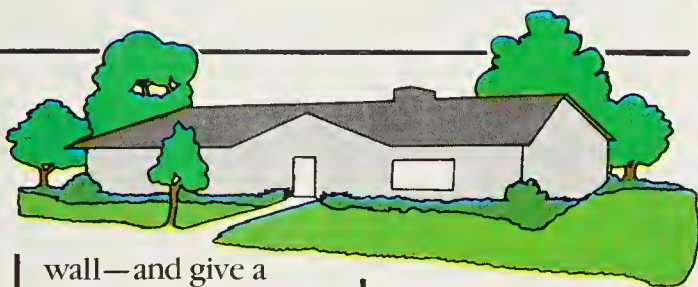
By Hank Smith

## Landscape mistakes in landscaping

Landscape mistakes make louder than words; and mistakes are a way of overlooking the successes in landscape planning and planting. One of the more common landscape mistakes that can ruin an amateur landscape plan are:

1. Flower and shrubby beds are small "floating beds" on the lawn. These beds subtract from the desired feeling of spaciousness which is so desired in any landscape. And, such little isolated beds cause you to spend more time and effort in creating and maintaining a lawn than is necessary. Such beds give a "checkerboard" appearance to the yard.

2. Shrubs that are planted too close to a building. This is an easy mistake to make. Small shrubs are used; it's wise to realize the eventual size of the shrub. After years of growth the shrubs may lean against the building; an eventually damage to the



wall—and give a crowded appearance. In time, such a crowded shrub will become lop-sided with a weak flat side against the wall.

3. Too many shrubs in the planting—the gardener may have tried to have one of every kind that grows in the area.

4. Trees circled by flower beds; walks and drives bordered with flower and/or shrubby beds. Lawns are more pleasing to the eye when grass or ground covers grow up to the trunks of trees or to the mulch bed around the trunks. Walks and drives become overly important when accepted by plantings on both sides. However, there are a few exceptions. One is the very formal plan, which fits a very formal house.

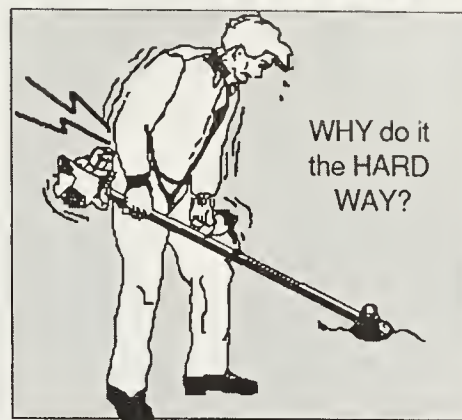
5. An overplanting of shrubs at the foundation of a building. Fast-growing and tall-growing shrubs tend to give the house the feeling of being smothered out of the landscape scheme. It's better to be able to

see the foundation at selected points; it's better if tall-growing shrubs are not placed beneath windows and allowed to grow above the window sills.

6. Too much color from different colors of blooms and too much foliage "interest" from variegated plants. A very large flower bed may accommodate masses of different colors; smaller flower beds are more pleasing and effective when the bloom color is selected with restraint. A shrub or tree of variegated foliage is best used as an accent plant among those of solid green color.

7. Shrubs pruned into unnatural shapes such as "balls and boxes." In most cases shrubs are better if pruned in a way so as to reduce the size and maintain their natural form. (Rare exceptions are severely pruned shrubs in a contemporary or stylized form to compliment a contemporary building.)

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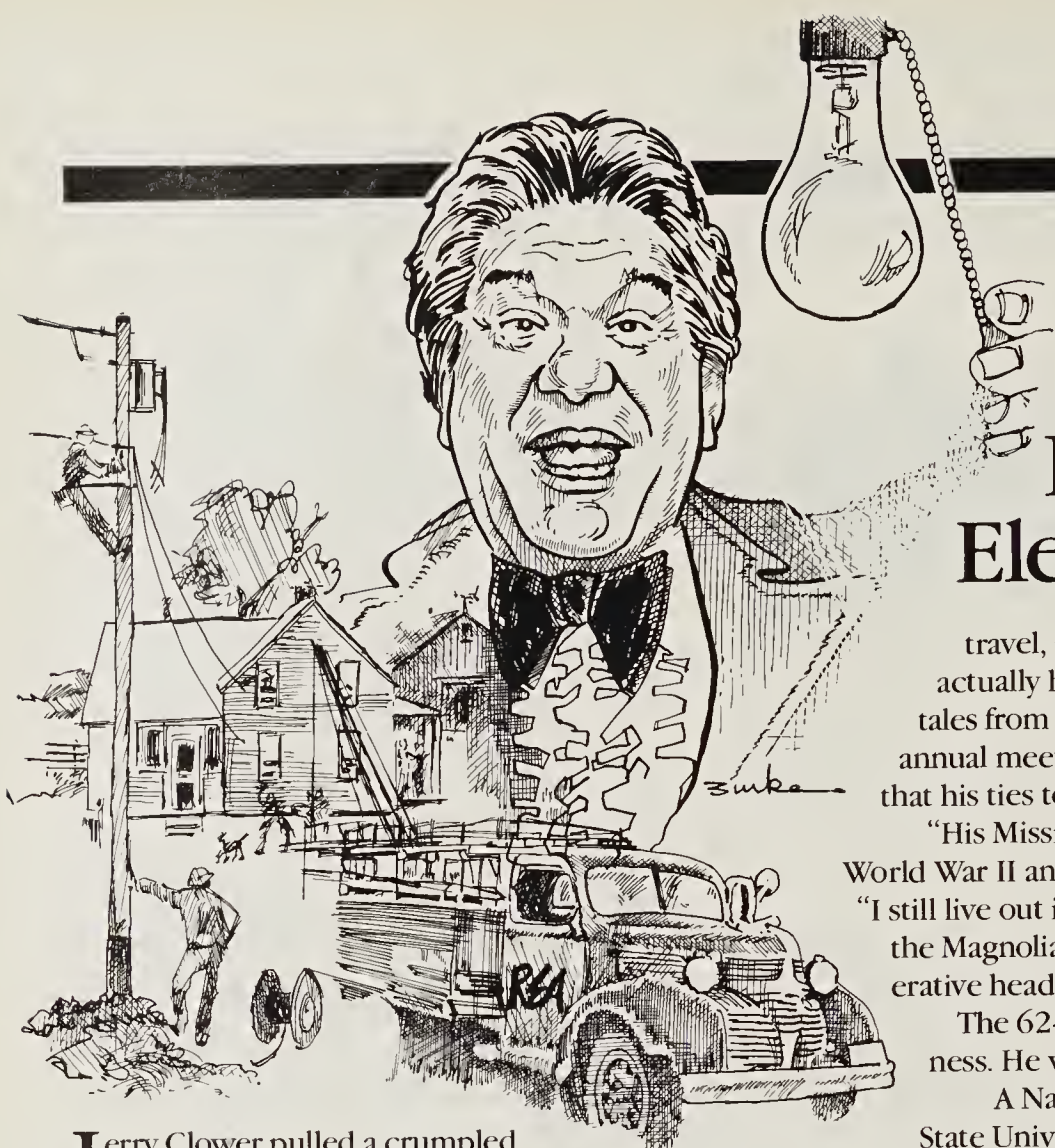
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## Clower Dedicates His New Album To Electric Cooperative

travel, as long as I see people, I'll hear these stories that actually happened." Clower's endless supply of humorous tales from rural America makes him a natural for electric co-op annual meetings around the nation. But he's quick to point out that his ties to rural electrification go far beyond that.

"His Mississippi homeplace has been served by a co-op since World War II and he is a co-op member today. (See box.)

"I still live out in the country. I send my check every month to the Magnolia Electric Power Association (an electric cooperative headquartered in McComb, MS)."

The 62-year-old Clower never set out to enter show business. He was in his 40s when his entertainment career began.

A Navy veteran and an agriculture graduate of Mississippi State University, he worked for the Mississippi Chemical Corporation for several years, rising from field representative to director of field services.

Jerry Clower pulled a crumpled envelope from his pocket the afternoon he was to record his latest album—this one in front of 3,000 folks at the annual meeting of Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Jacksonville.

"I hold in my hand the album for tonight," he said in his distinctive drawl. "It's simply a note of what I want to be sure to do. I don't have a script. I'm at my best when I do what I do best—that's run my mouth."

Clower has been running his mouth as a professional entertainer for the past 20 years. He's been named "Country Comic of the Year" nine times, has racked up record sales in excess of 4 million copies and has raised the nation's consciousness in regard to one of his favorite pastimes: coon hunting.

His latest album, his 20th, is titled "Let There Be Light," because it is dedicated to the rural electric program. It's set for release in July.

Clower's stories are about real happenings—mostly from his younger days in rural Mississippi. Of course, no one tells them quite the way he does: the western-style ruffled shirt, the flashy red jacket and, of course, the creative grammar. It's all part of the Jerry Clower persona.

"I believe the funniest things in the world really happen. They're not something someone thinks could happen," he said. "As long as I

## Comic's Tales Recall Early Days

One of the true stories Jerry Clower often tells on stage is about a memorable letter he received from his mother back home in Mississippi while he was serving in the Navy during World War II.

"I opened that letter and got excited! I started runnin' down the hangar deck on that aircraft carrier, hollerin' and carryin' on. They came down and said, 'Mississippi, why are you so happy?' I said, 'the pole done throwed up a creosote pole in our front yard! Yeeoweeeee!'"

The pole was symbolic for Clower and his clan because it meant his homeplace would finally get electricity for the first time—thanks to "the REA." REA is the Rural Electrification Administration, which was established in 1935 to provide loans that allowed rural citizens to form their own electric cooperatives.

Clower grew up on that rural Mississippi farm and remembered the difficulties of life without electricity. That's why he found cause for rejoicing in that wartime letter from home.

During his Jacksonville performance, he reminisced about the days before electricity came to the country.

"I remember a long time ago when they said, 'Put up \$5! We're goin' to get us some lights.' Me and my brother began running down fryin'-size chickens tryin' to get the \$5."

Clower also related a tale from those days involving his fabled friend Marcel Ledbetter, who's a figure in many of the comedian's



—Stories by Randy Wheeless

Even then, Clower was a sought-after speaker. He entertained at meetings of farm organizations with his later-to-be-famous stories, always giving a nice little pitch for his company's products.

One day a fella dared me to make a record, so I did," Clower said. "It turned out to be a good one. From there, I just sorta backed into show business."

After 20 years, his brand of homespun humor continues to draw a crowd—in personal appearances and on records. Yet he's still just a country boy, on stage or off.

What you see is what you get. There ain't nothing phony about me," Clower hopes to keep up the momentum—without changing his act. A pious religious family man and the father of four, he is vocal about the jokes many comedians tell routinely. He vows to keep his humor clean enough for the whole family.

If you buy a lot of people's albums, you have to sneak it into the house so the children won't hear it. I want to be a family entertainer. I want you to bring your family; bring your preacher.

I haven't changed my style in 20 years. The only change is that my hair is a little whiter."

Clower doesn't want to tamper with success for he has a 20-year singing streak going, with a routine that basically lets him just be himself. He lost his crumpled envelope before an important appearance, it posed no problem. The show would still go on.

It's basically just go out there and start winging it."

## 'The REA' In Mississippi

It seems that Marcel joined many of his neighbors on a bus trip to a nearby city to see a movie. Along the way, Marcel became curious about the distant glow in the sky.

When he asked Mr. Leonard, the bus driver, about it, he was told it came from the city's electric lights. Marcel wanted to know why the city had lights but his area didn't.

Mr. Leonard said, "Well, we've made special trips to Jackson and talked with the power companies. They just keep saying, 'Be patient—get to you.'"

That line drew laughter from the audience of Jones-Onslow EMC members—for many of them knew the power companies somehow never "get to" those rural Mississippi farms. Those farms could get power only when the farmers themselves joined together to do it through an electric co-op. Rural people in North Carolina—and across the nation—had the same experience.

Clower remembers that and the memory is part of his natural repertoire. He's a rural person who's served by electric co-ops. He's "one of the boys," he says, because he's still a member of a co-op.

That's why he's dedicating an album to the program—and why he appears at co-op annual meetings throughout the country.

"People invite me to their annual meetings. I do a lot of 'em and I do a lot more. I love 'em!"



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*Retirees who are still gainfully employed can now earn more than ever before without seeing a reduction in their Social Security benefits under new income limit rules adopted this year by the federal agency.*

*The income limit is scheduled to go up again in 1990.*

*Meanwhile, Social Security has introduced an all-purpose toll-free telephone service that provides information and makes appointments around-the-clock. However, the service has in no way affected the number of Social Security offices operating in North Carolina. There are 40 of them scattered across the state.*

*This month's column provides complete details about these developments in the Social Security program.*

## Retirees Can Earn More Than Ever Without Reducing Social Security

A lot of North Carolinians who have not yet reached retirement age probably look forward to the time when they can leave their jobs and begin receiving the Social Security and other retirement benefits.

But many folks who have reached retirement know that there is another alternative available. They know that you can keep on with some type of gainful employment while also receiving those Social Security checks.

No records are available on the number of North Carolinians who fall into this category, but a recent report said that 979,000 Tar Heels

receive Social Security checks. Of these, 5 are retirees. Another 138,000 are widows and widowers. But 94,000 are children and 8 are disabled workers.

No doubt a great many of these had employment. They've probably already learned that they can now earn more than ever before and still get Social Security checks.

Here are the figures:

If you are 65 or older, or if you will reach 65 during 1989, you can earn up to \$8,800 and still receive benefits. In 1988, the limit was \$8,400.

## Social Security Information Now Available Through 24-Hour-A-Day Telephone Service

A new all-purpose, 24-hour-a-day, Social Security number has been set up for the entire United States for people seeking information or appointments. Does this mean that North Carolina has lost some of its 40 Social Security offices? Not at all. They're still there.

The number, 1-800-234-5772, is answered by live operators from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. At other times, an answering machine will take your message.

Actually, the agency has two 800 numbers that can be helpful. Folks wanting an estimate of benefits—the answer to the question “How much will I get when I retire?”—can call 1-800-937-2000.

This will bring them a copy of Form SSA-7004. Send this form in, with the proper information, and you will get a computerized

reply telling how much you can expect if you retire at age 62, 65 or 70. Previously you had to be within “shooting range” of retirement to get this estimate, but that is no longer required.

Meanwhile, North Carolina continues to be served by 40 Social Security offices. All of them can provide the same kinds of service. They are located in Ahoskie, Albemarle, Albion, Asheville, Burlington, Charlotte, Concord, Durham, Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Franklin, Gastonia, Goldsboro, Greensboro,

Also, Greenville, Henderson, Hendersonville, Hickory, High Point, Kinston, Lenoir, Lenoir County, Morganton, Mount Airy, New Bern, Raleigh, Reidsville, Roanoke Rapids, Rockingham, Rocky Mount, Salisbury, Sanford, Shelby, Smithfield, Statesville, Washington, Whiteville, Wilkesboro, Wilmington, Winston-Salem.



If you are under 65, you can earn up to \$30 and still receive benefits. In 1988, the limit was \$6,120.

And if you have achieved the ripe old age of 65, you can earn any amount and still receive full Social Security benefits. This has been the case for some time.

If Social Security recipients go over the limit mentioned, they will lose \$1 in Social Security benefits for each \$2 earned over the limit. In 1989, this will change to \$1 for each \$3.

There is more good news for folks who are still working even after they reach the age for Social Security.

If you work, you are required to report your net earnings (unless your employer does it for you) and pay Social Security tax on it.

But this has its own compensation. The fact that you are still earning and still paying Social Security tax also entitles you to an increase in your monthly check. This may come automatically as the computer catches up with the delay; you will get a notice in the mail telling you of the increase and soon you'll get the increased monthly check.

But you can speed up the process.

Let's say you were self-employed during 1988 and sent in your report with your federal income tax form on or before the April 17 deadline. You can take a copy of that tax return, complete it with the Self-Employment Tax, and present it to your nearest Social Security office. You don't need a re-computation, or "refiguring" as it is sometimes called, based on your earnings for 1988. This will be sent in, and you will get the re-computation.

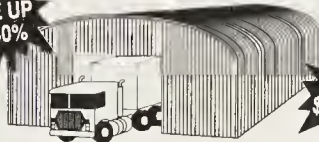
This way is usually much quicker than waiting for the automatic response. And the re-computation is effective for the entire calendar year. If you make your request right now, and it is accepted, it is effective in July or August, the correction will apply all the way back to January 1, 1989.

Most folks who have taken this step believe it is well worth the effort.

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He was a refugee from Vietnam who became a celebrity of sorts for thousands of North Carolina school children. But he's gone now, a victim of cancer at age 28.

He was George, the 16-foot-long python who has been the most popular attraction at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences for the past 25 years.

When he died, he had reached a "ripe old age" for Burmese pythons. The record life span for such snakes is 30 years.

"George was about 90 years old in human terms and he was sick," said Dr. John B. Funderburg, museum director. "We couldn't help him at the end. Everybody has been most understanding and sympathetic. I've often said that the Department of Agriculture is known all across the state for two famous personalities: Jim Graham and George."

The museum is a division of the N. C. Department of Agriculture.

"George will live on in the memory of several generations of museum visitors," said Mary Ann Brittain, curator of school programs who wrote George's official biography in 1987. The book is titled, *A Snake Called George*.

"There is no doubt that George will be greatly missed by staff and visitors alike," said Alvin Braswell, the museum's herpetologist responsible for the python's daily care. "George lived a full life, and he has been a tremendous asset to the museum's educational efforts."

George was captured in August, 1963, near Chau Lang in the Mekong Delta region of South Vietnam. Green Beret Sgt. Dewey C. Simpson saved the python from becoming the main course at a festive meal planned by Cambodians in An Gang Province.

After Sgt. Simpson's tour of duty ended, he brought George with him to Fort Bragg. The snake then measured 10 feet, 9 inches long.



## A Final Farewell For A Tar Heel Celebrity

When keeping the snake at the Army proved to be impractical, Sgt. Simpson presented him to the museum on Feb. 5, 1964.

George quickly became a focal point for museum visits by school children.

On Sept. 22, 1985, thousands of visitors waited in the rain to watch George enjoy a rare trip outdoors—in a portable cage—and to hear Sgt. Simpson discuss the snake's Vietnam experiences.

If you'd like to read more about Ol' George, write for a copy of *A Snake Called George*. It's priced at \$4.15, including tax, shipping and handling. Mail orders to N. C. State Museum of Natural Sciences, Department of Natural Resources, Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611.

## Signs Of The Times, Circa 1930

We didn't realize it until after our April issue was published, but it cover carried three plugs for Coca-Cola.

They took the form of advertising signs on the old country store featured in Pam Renfroe's painting, "Rural Memories."

Chances are good that you noticed the big one on the side of the building ("Drink Coca-Cola In Bottles, 5¢"), but there were two more on the front. The larger of these featured one of the distinctive coke bottles and the slogan, "Coca-Cola, Sign of Good Taste." The smaller was a thermometer with the familiar logo at the top.

Mrs. Renfroe received full authorization from the soft drink company to make use of these signs in the painting before she completed it.

These and six other signs in the image duplicated actual signs that would have been used on a typical country store in the South during the 1930s. The other six products are Stanback, Goody's Headache Powder, Vicks, Pure gasoline, Colonial Bread and Town Talk/Skylark flour.

The artist's husband, Bob, who works with her in operating the Renfroe Collection of Fine Art, said he couldn't explain why the flour sign would have promoted two brands.

"It does seem strange, but we have a photograph of a sign like that showing both brands."

The prints, measuring 18 inches by 15 inches, are \$35 each, plus \$5 for shipping and handling. Mail orders should be sent to Renfroe Collection of Fine Art, Box 2, Bowman, GA 30624. For phone orders using credit cards, call (404) 245-5357.





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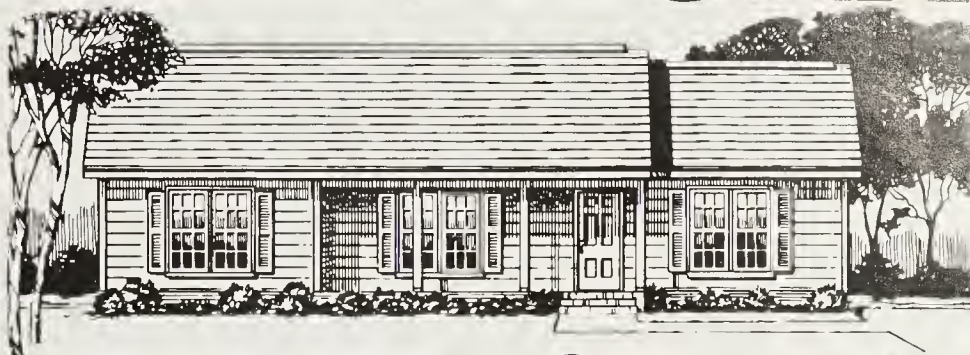
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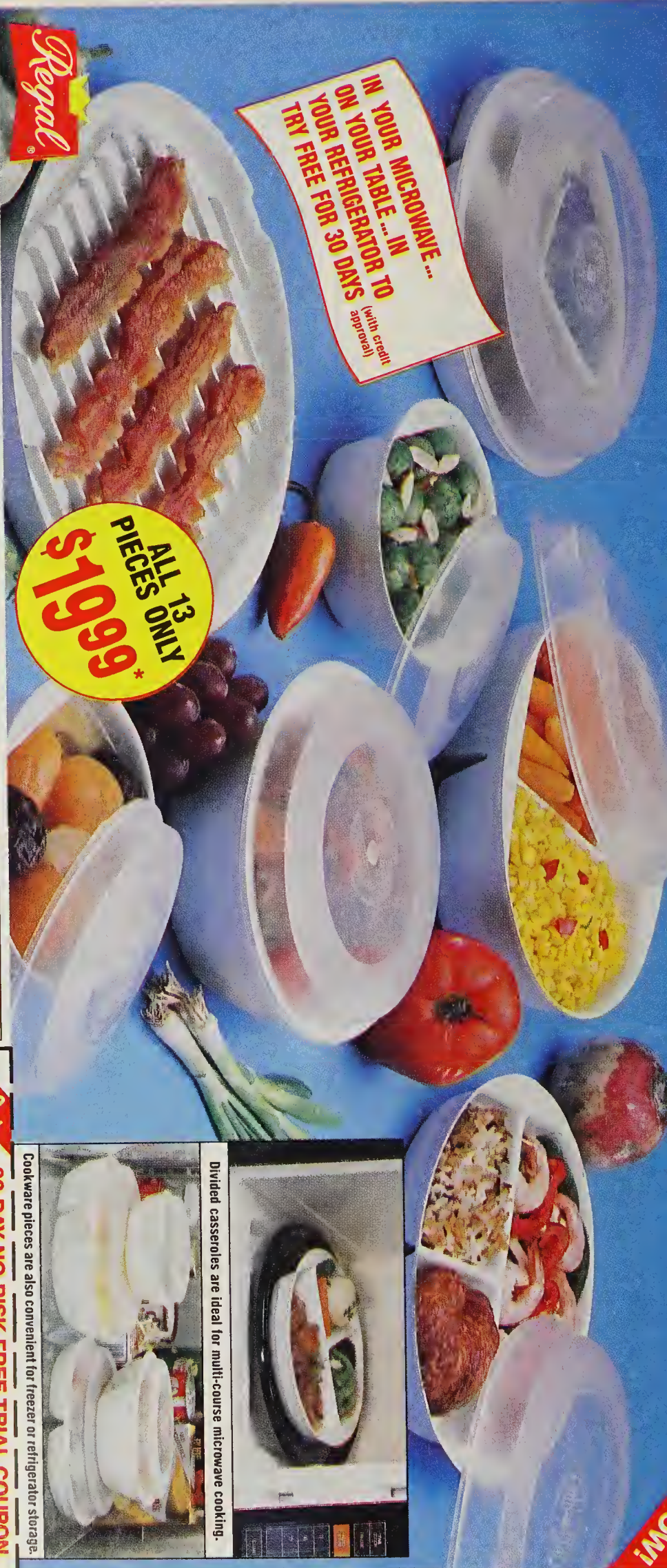
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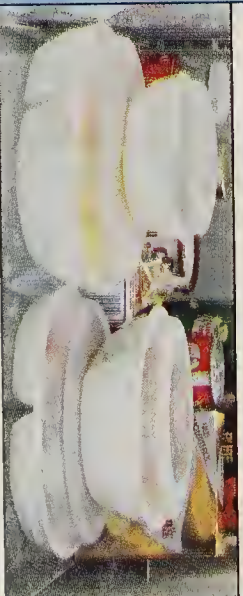
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